

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action mailed March 19, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 and 35-40 as being non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 11-18, 20-27, 30-37, 40-43, 46-49, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Business Wire article entitled "New Rapid Planning Matrix Function in the SAP Automotive Solution Exceeds Performance Tests for High Volume Manufacturing Requirement of DaimlerChrysler" and U.S. Patent No. 6,192,370 B1. Claims 9, 10, 19, 28, 29, 38, 39, 44, 45, 50, and 51 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 12, and 35 to more particularly show the link between the claimed method and a computer. Claims 2-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 36-40 also incorporate this amendment by virtue of their direct or indirect dependence on claims 1, 5, 12, or 35. Applicants submit that these amendments traverse the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection, and request the timely allowance of these claims.

In response to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, Applicants first state that this application (Application Serial No. 09/819,658) and U.S. Patent No. 6,192,370 B1 were, at the time the invention of Application Serial No. 09/819,658 was made, owned by SAP Aktiengesellschaft. Because this application and U.S. Patent No. 6,192,370 B1 were commonly owned at the time the invention of this application was made, it may not be used in a § 103(a) rejection based on its status as § 102(e) art.

See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Applicants submit that this statement traverses the Examiner's § 103(a) rejections.

Applicants would also like to note that the priority date of this application is March 31, 2000, based on U.S. Provisional Application 60/193,693. See paragraph 001 of the application. U.S. Patent No. 6,192,370 B1 was first published on February 20, 2001. This date is after the priority date of this application, thus U.S. Patent No. 6,192,370 B1 is also not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) or (b).

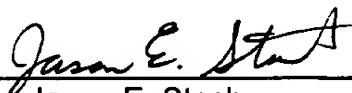
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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